



ST. THOMAS

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH

1937

EXETER:

*Printed by H. Punchard & Son, Alphington Street, St. Thomas,
1938.*



ST. THOMAS

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH

1937

EXETER:

*Printed by H. Punchard & Son, Alphington Street, St. Thomas,
1938.*

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL:

Lt. Col. L. C. GARRATT, O.B.E., J.P.

Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee:

Chairman - Rev. J. L. L. FULFORD, D.D.

Vice-Chairman - Capt. H. J. A. PORTER.

Mr. J. Ackland	Mr. W. G. Little
Mr. L. Aggett	Mr. J. R. Makeig-Jones
The Rev. B. C. Bennett, (<i>Vice-Chairman of Council</i>)	Mr. S. E. Odgers
Mr. G. R. Bowes	Mr. W. H. Pearce
Mr. J. C. Channon	Mr. W. Please
Mr. S. Clark	Mr. J. Rodd
Gen. A. J. W. Dowell	The Rev. H. Rusbridger
Dr. R. Eager	Mr. J. Scanes
Col. L. C. Garratt	Mr. E. H. Sellek
Major H. C. Gould	The Rev. C. Sherwin
Mr. W. B. Hallett	The Rev. J. H. Snow
Mr. F. E. Hayman	Mrs. E. M. Willing
Mr. V. E. Henson	Mr. S. Williams
Major H. C. L. Holden	Mr. S. R. Withers
Mr. H. L. J. Horrell	The Rev. T. Wood-Robinson
Mr. N. A. H. Jenkins	Col. M. R. A. Wyatt-Edgell

Staff of the Health Department.

* MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

W. J. DOYLE,
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H., B.Sc. (Pub. Health).

CHIEF SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR:

W. T. HAWKER,
M.I. MUN. & CY. E., M.S.I.A., Certified Sanitary & Meat & Food Inspector.

DEPUTY SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR:

E. J. SOPER,
M.S.I.A., Certified Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector.

ASSISTANT INSPECTORS:

S. M. PERRIAM,
M.S.I.A., Certified Sanitary Inspector.

W. J. CUMES.

CLERK:

J. J. LAWRENCE.

Contribution is made under the Public Health Acts by Exchequer Grants to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

* Denotes part time Officer.

SUMMARY

OF

ANNUAL REPORT for 1937

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the St. Thomas Rural District	....	118,972 acres			
Population Census, 1931	....	28,191			
Population, Estimated 1937	....	29,230			
Number of Persons, per acre	....	.246		
Number of Parishes comprising the District		45				
Number of Inhabited Houses 1937	....	7,667			
„ „ „ „ 1931	....	6,682			
Number of Separate Families 1931	....	6,802			
Rateable Value on the 1st April, 1938	....	£161,460			
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate after allowing for derating	....	£673			
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	
Birth Rate per 1,000	12.8	13.8	12.7	14.2	13.4
Death Rate per 1,000	11.9	11.2	11.9	12.2	12.6
„ „ „ (C.F. Adjustment)	—	8.9	9.5	9.7	10.1	
Infant Mortality per 1,000		37.6	48.5	64.3	62.6	50.1

To the Chairman and Members
OF THE
St. Thomas Rural District Council.

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937. The Report has been drawn up as far possible in accordance with Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health.

The Population of the District is estimated at 29,230, and the Area 118,972 acres.

The District is chiefly Agricultural in character, there are 20 Industrial undertakings that come under the head of Factories owing to the employment of mechanical power—these are Cyder Factories at Topsham, Whimble and Hele Station, Paper Mills at Stoke Canon and Silverton, Builders at Sowton, Alphington and Clyst Hydon, Chemical Manure Works at Ebford and Woodbury. There are also Fishing Industries at Topsham and Lypstone, and Quarrying at Bridford. There are three large Mental Institutions in the District, viz :—The Devon Mental Hospital at Exminster, Exeter Mental Hospital at Digby's, Topsham, and the Royal Western Counties' Institution at Starcross: and of other Public Institutions—a Boys' Reformatory at Pinhoe and an Industrial School at Exminster.

Causes of Death in St. Thomas Rural District. 1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males	Females
CIVILIANS ONLY ALL CAUSES.				188	180
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	-	-
2.	Measles	...	...	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	1	-
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
6.	Influenza	...	...	6	8
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	-	-
8.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	-	-
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	9	5
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	4	1
11.	Syphilis	...	...	2	1
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	-	-
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	20	27
14.	Diabetes	...	...	-	4
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	11	15
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	44	38
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	1	1
18.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	14	9
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	9	12
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	7	10
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	3	-
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	3	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	2	-
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	1	3
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	-
26.	Other Diseases of the Liver, etc.	...	...	1	-
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	8	3
28.	Acute Chronic Nephritis	...	...	7	7
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	-	-
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	-	2
31.	Congenital Debility premature birth, malformation, etc.	...	...	7	3
32.	Senility	...	...	6	8
33.	Suicide	...	...	2	1
34.	Other violence	...	...	6	5
35.	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	13	15
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	-	1
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)				-	-
	Small Pox	...	...	-	-
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year				13	6
	Total	...	...	12	5
	Legitimate	...	...	1	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	184	195
Live Births				177	190
	Total	...	...	7	5
	Legitimate	...	...	3	11
	Illegitimate	...	...	3	9
Still Births				-	2
POPULATION				29,230	

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE.

The total number of Births registered in the St. Thomas Rural District for the Year 1937 was 379. 184 males, 195 females.

Of this number 7 males and 5 females were certified as illegitimate.

This gives a Birth rate of 13.4 per 1,000 of the corrected population being 0.8 lower than the Year 1936.

DEATH RATE.

The number of Deaths registered as occurring during the Year was 368, of which number 188 were of males and 180 of females.

INFANT MORTALITY.

19 children died under the age of one year. This gives an infantile mortality of 50.1 per 1,000 being 12.5 lower than for the year 1936.

The total Death rate being 12.6 per 1,000 is 0.4 higher than for the year 1936.

A detailed list showing the causes of death under 36 heads is given upon the preceding page.

The following table shows the Birth and Death Rate for 1913 (pre-war) and the years 1932 to 1937.

	1913	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Birth Rate	19.7	12.9	12.8	13.8	12.7	14.2	13.4
Death Rate	17.8	11.9	11.9	11.2	11.9	12.2	12.6
„ „ C.F.	-	-	-	8.9	9.5	9.7	10.1

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT

By arrangement with the Exeter City Authorities, cases of Infectious Disease are removed to the Whipton Sanatorium when necessary. Disinfection is subsequently carried out by means of a Thresh Disinfector and Formalin spray.

During the year disinfection was carried out in 64 cases.

The County Council maintains a laboratory at 7, Dix's Field, Exeter. Outfits can be obtained there for the various bacteriological examinations which may be necessary in cases of disease, reports are provided free of charge. Reports are also provided by the laboratory on public water supplies at a small fee.

The Exeter City Council provides an ambulance for the removal of cases of infectious disease, the cost of such removal being borne by this Council. Non-infectious cases are dealt with by the St. John's Ambulance and the Red Cross which have ambulances at Exeter, Dawlish and Exmouth.

There are a few private nurses practising in the district but almost all the professional nursing is provided by the Devon Nursing Association. The local district council has no financial responsibility as regards nursing since, with the exception of a grant made by the County Council, the Association is maintained by voluntary subscription.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are 2 Child Welfare Clinics in the district, one at Topsham and the other at Broadclyst. Sessions are held fortnightly at the centres on alternate Thursdays at 2 p.m. Owing to the influenza epidemic at the beginning of the year only 20 sessions were held at both centres. The following figures give the number of attendances of mothers, toddlers and infants at the centres during the year.

		MOTHERS.		TODDLERS.		INFANTS.
Broadclyst	.....	293	....	148	.....	243
Topsham	.....	542	....	183	....	498

The Hon. Secretaries have kindly furnished reports of the progress of the Centres during the year. Miss Glanville of Topsham writes: "Topsham Welfare Centre has increased its attendances. We average 30 mothers with young babies and many toddlers with new babies coming in most welfare days. The mothers follow the advice given by the Doctor as far as they are able. We have several children with squints who have been seen to and have glasses. This year we have had a pram shelter given us which is a great asset. I am glad to report Topsham Infant Welfare is doing very well."

Miss Were of Broadclyst writes: "This Centre includes Honiton Clyst and Pinhoe as well as Broadclyst. There were 35 members on the register at the end of 1937, an average attendance of members being 14 mothers and some interested relatives. The premises have been repaired and re-painted, a much needed improvement. Last Summer a motor trip to Exmouth with tea was enjoyed. The Committee have provided unfailing social helpers during the year."

Lack of concentration of population does not lend itself to the provision of more Centres but 5 health visitors attend in the district, two of whom spend a great part of their time working there.

There is no Maternity Hospital but there are 25 midwives practising. Ante-natal examination is provided to expectant mothers under the County Scheme while milk and dental treatment to necessitous expectant and nursing mothers is provided by the same authority.

HOSPITALS.

Treatment is provided for patients suffering from Tuberculosis at the Sanatorium maintained by the County Council at Hawkmoor, Bovey Tracey, and the Hospital at Ivybank, Exeter. The District has a contract with the Exeter City Council and cases of Infectious Disease are treated at the City Council's Hospital for Infectious Disease at Whipton.

A Small-Pox Hospital has been erected by the Devon County Council near Upton Pyne and is available for patients from this District should the need arise.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Treatment is available for cases at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The Public Health Act (Amendment Act) 1890, as far as is applicable to Rural Authorities came in force on the 1st of February, 1891.

Byelaws are in force with respect to new Streets and Buildings for the Parishes of Alphington, Pinhoe and Topsham, and with respect to new Buildings for the remainder of Parishes. Byelaws have been in force in the former since 1894 and the latter since 1902.

Urban Powers with respect to Ruinous or Dangerous Buildings, came in force March 11th, 1901.

Sections 30, 31 and 33, comprised in Part II and Sections 34, 38, 44 and 45 comprised in Part III Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907, came in force February 26th, 1912.

Sections 51, 53, 54 and 55, contained in Part V of the Public Health Act, 1925, (Watercourses, Streams, etc.) are in force in the Parishes of Alphington, Exminster, Ide, Lympstone, Pinhoe and Topsham.

The administration of the Building Byelaws has undoubtedly proved of great benefit to the Public Health, whilst the dangerous Building clauses have enabled the Council to deal with many derelict buildings which could not otherwise have been dealt with.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

WATER.

There are Main Water Supplies at Alphington, Ashton, Bickton, Bridford, Colaton Raleigh, Christow, East Budleigh, Kenton, Otterton, Ide, Pinhoe, Starcross, Poltimore, Countess Weir, Whimble, Topsham and Lymington.

The following improvements have been carried out—

TOPSHAM.—Two extensions have been made here, at Greatwood Terrace the main was extended for 15 yards with 3 in. pipe, and at Newcourt Road for a distance of 550 yards also with 3 in. pipe.

EAST BUDLEIGH.—The Main at Rolle Hill was renewed 160 yards with 3 in. pipe.

HARPFORD AND NEWTON POPPLEFORD.—Work is practically completed on the provision of a main supply for these Villages.

Samples taken during the year were mainly from private supplies where pollution was suspected, and, where found unsatisfactory, steps were taken to remedy any defect.

At the end of the year the Council approved the taking of Samples regularly from the Public Supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The methods of disposal of sewage in the St. Thomas Rural District may be roughly divided into 4 groups. These are :—

- (1) Irrigation of crude sewage over the land.
- (2) Discharge of crude sewage into streams.
- (3) Tank treatment of crude sewage followed by broad irrigation of the effluent.
- (4) Discharge of crude sewage into tidal rivers.

The sewage at Bridford, Dunsford, Upton Pyne, and part of the sewage of Broadclyst, Brampford Speke and Kenton is disposed of by the first of these methods.

That of Clyst St. Mary, East Budleigh, Honiton Clyst, Kenn, Kennford, Otterton, and part of that of Kenton, is disposed of by discharge into small rivers and streams.

Alphington, Ide, Newton Poppleford, Pinhoe, Rockbeare, Tedburn St. Mary, Whimble, Woodbury, and part of Brampford Speke, Broadclyst, Christow and Kenton, give their sewage a preliminary tank treatment followed by irrigation of the effluent.

Exminster sewage is disposed of in a complete sewage purification plant.

The sewage of Lympstone, Exton, Starcross, and Topsham discharges into the River Exe at points where it is tidal in character.

The following extensions and improvements have been carried out.

ALPHINGTON.—The Sewer was extended at Bridge House for a distance of 43 yards with 6 in. pipe.

BRAMPFORD SPEKE.—Here the Sewer was extended for a distance of 495 yards with 6 in. pipe. This enabled the Council Houses, Public Hall and other properties to be properly drained.

PINHOE.—To meet building operations here the Sewer was extended at Heath Barton for a distance of 2,250 yards, the pipe being 12 in. and 9 in., while at Park Lane the extension was 390 yards of 9 in. pipe.

TOPSHAM.—Owing to building development at Highfield the Sewer was extended 430 yards with 9 in. pipe.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The approximate number of closets in the district is 8,426, of these 5,328 are Water Closets, 3,098 are Earth Closets. In the urban or semi-urban parishes, Alphington, Exminster, Ide, Lympstone, Pinhoe, Starcross and Topsham, the majority of the closets are linked with a water carriage system. For the Rural Parishes the majority are earth closets. There are some Privies still existing in the area which, when found, are converted into either Earth Closets or Water Closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

In 1920 it was decided to collect the house refuse in certain parishes of a semi-urban character, this was subsequently extended to others; collections are made in 18 parishes; there are also several Hamlets included in the collection areas. The work is done by contract and continues to be carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner.

During the year a special Sub-Committee was set up to investigate the collection and disposal of refuse with a view to improvement generally throughout the district.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

In addition to inspection arising through cases of infectious disease, many routine inspections have been made, some with the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The tabular statement furnished by the Sanitary Inspectors will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report which follows that of the Medical Officer.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No cases have arisen requiring the Council's attention.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the Schools continues to be fairly satisfactory. Water Carriage Sewage Systems were installed in two Schools during the year and various minor defects have been remedied.

When cases of infectious disease occurs in Schools contacts are excluded and searches were made for any carriers or undetected cases. In several instances hitherto undetected cases were found still attending School and were promptly excluded. Where there is an outbreak of any size visits are also made to the School absentees. Several cases were found by this method.

In regard to infectious disease at Schools we must pay tribute to the efficient work of the Health Visitor, Miss James, who co-operated heartily with this department.

Housing

Generally the houses in this District are fair. In the purely agricultural areas they consist mainly of cob and stone with thatched roofs, while in the Urban or Semi-Urban Parishes they are built of brick or stone and roofed with slate or tiles.

Houses for the working classes are still in great demand.

The houses in 17 Parishes have the water laid on from Main Supplies and I am pleased to say this number will soon be increased, in the other Parishes they still have to depend on wells and springs.

The closet accommodation is generally satisfactory.

The number of new houses built during the year was 187 and of these 147 may be classed as for the working classes.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a)	Total	187
-----	-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

With State assistance under the Housings Acts, 1919 to 1925 :

(i)	By Local Authority	...	...	0
(ii)	By other bodies or persons	...	...	0

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES INSPECTION—

(1)	(a)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	44
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	992

(2)	(a)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	44
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	... ..	44
(3)		Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	7
(4)		Number of Dwelling Houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading, found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	18
2.		REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.		
		Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	15
3.		ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.		
	A.	Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936—		
	(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs		3
	(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit—		
		(a) By Owners		15
		(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners		0
	B.	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—		
	(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	52
	(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied—		
		(a) By Owners		119
		(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners		0
	C.	Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936—		
	(1)	Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	4
	(2)	Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	21

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLIES.

The milk problem has received much time and attention during the year. Many of the Dairies were visited by the M.O.H. with the Sanitary Inspectors and it is a pleasure to record that some of the dairies were well constructed, well-kept, and the

methods of milking employed therein were excellent. Unfortunately the same cannot be said about all the milk production in the district. During the Summer the Council became concerned about the large percentage of Samples which proved unsatisfactory under the methylene blue test and asked for a report on the matter. A report was submitted advising that while failure might be due to faults of production, faults of distribution and disease of cattle, the main cause of failure was faults of production. The report was examined by a special Sub-Committee on which Mr. Colin Ross, the County Agricultural Organiser, was co-opted.

Since in the production of clean milk, good methods of milking are more important than good equipment, this Committee recommended the employment of a whole time man whose duties would be devoted to advising producers the best methods to adopt in order to ensure the production of clean milk.

The recommendation of the Committee was not however endorsed by the Council but as an alternative we are now working in co-operation with the County Agricultural Committee. Cases of failure are investigated when possible by our Staff and also by the County Agricultural Organiser's representative who further reports to this Council the possible reason of failure and the steps taken to prevent recurrence. This system has been working a short time and it is yet early to comment on its progress.

Our efforts have also been devoted to advising as many producers as possible to apply for accredited licenses. Where accredited licenses are held the farm buildings must comply with certain structural regulations, the milk samples must pass the necessary test regularly and the herds are periodically examined by a Veterinary Surgeon.

The following table shows the numbers and results of samples taken by the Staff under the various designations.

				Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Accredited	...	...	..	120	47
Proposed Accredited	...	...	...	64	29
T.T.	...	...	...	27	3
Proposed T.T.	...	...	...	4	0
Ordinary	..	...	...	114	71
TOTAL				329	150

This does not include the samples taken outside the district, of milk produced in the district, by the Officers of other Authorities, but these numbers are included by the Sanitary Inspector in another part of this report.

As will be seen from the results of examinations of milk samples the percentage of passes by holders of accredited licenses is much greater than the percentage in the case of ordinary licenses. At the end of the year out of 531 registered milk producers in the district 92 held accredited licenses, an increase of 29 over the previous year. There are, in addition, 8 holders of the T.T. Licence who produce a tubercule free milk.

During the year inspections were made of Dairies by all members of the Staff and instructions given in clean methods of milking. Samples of milk are regularly taken and submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination. The method of milk sampling was revised during the year. Sterilized dippers from a sterilized container are now used and only one dipper is used for each sample. This obviates any possibility of contamination from an unclean dipper. We are indebted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory who very kindly sterilize our containers and dippers.

Six new Cowsheds have been built and five renovated.

MEAT.

The Slaughterhouses are systematically visited by the Meat Inspectors and occasionally by the Medical Officer of Health. These visits take place at various hours of the day so as to include times when slaughter is in progress as well as before and after hours of slaughter. The following table shows approximately the number of carcasses inspected and condemned.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed (approx.)	2600	420	8700	8000
„ Inspected (approx.)	1730	70	1742	3070
All Diseased except T.B., whole carcass condemned	-	-	1	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected	-	-	-	.16
T.B. only, whole carcass condemned... ..	7	-	-	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	-	125
Percentage of number inspected ... ..	.8	-	-	4.5

Each carcass and the organs have been examined and where any disease has been found the meat has been condemned and destroyed.

Premises where the occasional slaughter of pigs takes place have been visited and all carcasses examined, and where necessary condemned and destroyed.

In addition all Butchers' shops and meat vans have been inspected and everything done to ensure as far as possible that all meat sold shall be clean and fit for food.

BAKEHOUSES.

The Bakehouses have been regularly inspected and continue to be kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

OTHER FOOD STORES.

These have been inspected and advice given with respect to the protection of certain articles of food, otherwise no action was found necessary.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

During the year samples were taken as set out below.

New Milk	48
Flour	1
Lard	3
Pepper	3
Sweets	5
Ginger	1
Butter	4
Margarine	3
Coffee	1
Sponge Cake	1
	<hr/>
	70
	<hr/>

Of the samples of New Milk taken 5 were found to be non-genuine, but 4 of these were insufficient to warrant proceedings and the Vendors were cautioned.

In the other case, however, the Vendor was summoned and fined £2 10 6.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

In the early months of the year influenza was epidemic throughout the District. There was also a sharp rise in the notifications of Scarlet Fever but there were comparatively few cases of Diphtheria. There was a small outbreak of Typhoid Fever confined to one household and in common with the other parts of the County a few cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) were notified.

Enquiry was made in all cases as to the source of infection. Searches were also made at the Schools and among the absentees

for carriers or undetected cases and several cases were unearthed in this way. Cases were removed to Hospital where the facilities for isolation were found to be unsatisfactory and it is a pleasure to record the promptness of the response and the courtesy which our calls received from the Officers of the Isolation Hospital.

The various Notifiable Diseases are discussed in detail following the Table which shows the

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.				TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS.
Small Pox	..	..	..	-	-	-
Diphtheria	..	..	..	6	6*	-
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	53	41*	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	..	..	..	8	3	-
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	..	..	..	19	-	9
Erysipelas	..	..	..	9	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	3	3	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..	..	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	2	-	-
Tuberculosis—						
(a) Pulmonary	Male	..	..	18	4	9
	Female	..	..	13	2	5
	Total	..	..	—31	—6	—14
(b) Non-Pulmonary	Male	..	..	10	4	4
	Female	..	..	12	2	1
	Total	..	..	—22	—6	—5
				153	65	28

* Diagnosis revised in one case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..						
1	..	...						
5	..	..			2	3				1
10	..	..			2	1				
15	..	..	1		2		1			
20	..	..			1	1				
25	..	..	2	2	1	1	2	2		1
35	..	..	4	3		3	1	3		
45	..	..	8	4	1	1	4	3	1	
55	..	..	1	3	1	2	2	4	1	
65 and upwards	..	..	2	1			4			
Totals	..	..	18	13	10	12	14	12	2	2

The ratio of non-notified deaths to total deaths is one in 14

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 53 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in the District. The disease on the whole was mild in character and its mildness was conducive to its spread. In Topsham the almost urban conditions which prevail and the occurrence of light cases to which medical attention was not promptly called helped much in the spread of the disease. At Dunchideock the presence of a hitherto undetected case gave rise to six cases, as the School formed the only point of contact for the children in this rural area it was closed for a period otherwise the disease was sporadic in character in the rural area. The cases were distributed as follows : Topsham 29, Dunchideock 6, 2 cases in each of the following Parishes : Starcross, Woodbury, Kenn, East Budleigh, and one each at Alphington, Bickton, Broadclyst, Clyst St. George, Doddiscombsleigh, Exminster, Honiton Clyst, Mamhead, Harpford and Shillingford.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Eight cases were notified during the year. Five of these cases which were sporadic in type occurred in Public Institutions. One other case which was notified elsewhere occurred in the District and in spite of exhaustive enquiries the source of infection was not traced.

What might be termed an outbreak occurred at Woodbury where five of the eight inmates of one house were affected. Three of these cases were notified to St. Thomas area and two to another authority. Enquiry here showed that the sewage from a choked inspection pit had been thrown on the garden over the well about 10 days before the occurrence of the first case. The top of the well, which was shallow and supplied only the house, was a mere six inches below the surface and was most inadequately protected by a few loose pieces of sheet iron. The water showed gross contamination on bacteriological examination and the well was closed. No further cases occurred.

DIPHThERIA.

In all 6 cases occurred during the year and of these 4 occurred in Institutions. Following the occurrence within a short period of a second case at an approved School all the inmates were swabbed and seven virulent carriers were found. These carriers were isolated at the School and after treatment were pronounced free from infection.

The other two cases were sporadic in type and occurred at Topsham.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases were notified in widely separated parts of the District. One occurring at Christow, another at Aylesbeare and

the third at Harpford. All the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and later came under the County Orthopædic Service. The cases were not of a serious nature and all made good recoveries.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

One case was notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA.

Nineteen cases were notified during the year.

GLANDULAR FEVER.

Two cases of this disease occurred in the District.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two case were notified in the District.

Where cases of non-notifiable infectious and contagious disease occurred our only source of information was the School Reports sent in by the Heads of the District Schools. During 1937 reports were received in this way of the following number of cases: Mumps 22, Chicken-pox 39, Influenza 317, Whooping Cough 29, Ring-worm 5, Impetigo 15, Scabies 1.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases notified this year is 53, of these, 28 were males, and 25 Females; 31 cases pulmonary and 22 non-pulmonary.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining in the district on December 31st, 1937, was 114, of which 102 were pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary.

In every case after death or removal, disinfection of the rooms and bedding is carried out. Premises vacated by tubercular patients are also disinfected when known. Prompt disinfection can only be carried out in these cases when the change of residence on the part of the patient is notified immediately. The measures adopted to secure the efficient notification of change of residence are working satisfactorily. During the year 1937 disinfection has been carried out in 64 cases.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. W. T. Hawker, follows and I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. DOYLE,
M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M.,
D.P.H., B.Sc. (Pub. Health)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.

For the Rural District of St. Thomas, on the administration of
the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors
of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
Factories— Including Factory Laundries	20	0	0
Workshops— Including Workshop Laundries	45	0	0
Workplaces— Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report	0	0	0
Total ..	65	0	0

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ..	-	-	-	-
Want of ventilation ..	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding ..	-	-	-	-
Want of drainage of floors ..	-	-	-	-
Other nuisances ..	-	-	-	-
Sanitary } insufficient ..	-	-	-	-
accommo- } unsuitable or defective ..	-	-	-	-
dation } not separate for sexes ..	-	-	-	-
Total ..	-	-	-	-

3.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (131) at the end of the year (1)	Number (2)
Bakehouses	40
Dressmakers	19
Tailors	11
Smiths	40
All other Trades	109
Total number of Workshops on Register ..	219

4.—Other Matters.

Class. (1)	Number (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	-
Action taken in matter referred by H.M. Inspector as remed- iable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts, (s. 5, 1901)	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	-
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector .	-
Other	-
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year	-

(Signature) W. J. DOYLE,

*Medical Officer of Health**Dated May, 1938.*

Rural District Council of St. Thomas.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for the Year 1937.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

May, 1938

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of St. Thomas.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Eleventh Annual Report and the following is a brief summary of the work carried out by my department during the year under review.

SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED THROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1937.

Drainage	No. of Private House Drains connected with			
	Sewers	...	...	150
	„ Drains repaired	...	...	11
	„ New Drains	...	...	179
	„ Slop Drains	...	...	5
	„ New Sewers	...	...	2

Food	No. of Seizures or Surrenders of Unsound Meat, Fish, etc. ...	155
Houses	No. of New Houses erected ...	187
	„ Old Houses satisfactorily renovated	15
	„ Plans presented to the Authority for approval ...	358
	„ Plans passed ...	278
	„ Houses in plans approved ...	280
	„ Houses condemned as being unfit for human habitation ...	7
	„ Houses closed ...	7
	„ Houses repaired and limewashed ...	27
	„ Premises inspected under the Public Health Act and Housing Acts ...	2337
Disinfections	No. of Lots of Bedding and Clothing disinfected ...	71
	„ Houses disinfected ...	71
	„ Schools disinfected ...	5
Legal Proceedings	No. of Summons taken out for abatement of Nuisances ...	0
	„ Convictions ..	0
	„ Summons taken out for Ruinous or Dangerous Buildings ...	0
	„ Orders made ...	0
Nuisances	No. of Complaints ...	20
	„ Notices issued for abatement of Nuisances ...	144
	„ Nuisances abated ..	119
	„ Cases of overcrowding on the Register ...	54
	„ Cases abated ...	17
	„ Complaints of Pigstyes ...	2
	„ Animals removed ...	2
Offensive Trades	No. of Offensive Trades ...	2
	„ „ „ improperly conducted	0
Closets	No. of Privies converted into Earth Closets	0
	„ Conversions into Water Closets ...	0
	„ Cases insufficient Closet accommodation	11
	„ Cases remedied ...	11
Railway Stations	No. of Visits ...	26
	Conditions satisfactory ...	Yes

Scavenging	No. of Refuse Heaps discovered injurious to health...	3
	„ Refuse Heaps remedied	3
Public Scavenging carried on at—Alphington, Brampford Speke, Broadclyst, Christow, Colaton Raleigh, Dunsford, East Budleigh, Exminster, Harpford (including Newton Poppleford), Ide, Kenn (including Kennford and Clapham), Kenton (including Starcross), Lymptone, Otterton, Pinhoe, Stoke Canon, Topsham (including Countess Weir), Woodbury (including Woodbury Salterton, Ebford and Exton).		
Schools	No. of Schools inspected	47
	„ „ in Insanitary condition	3
	„ „ Improved	5
Bake-houses	No. of Bakehouses	45
	„ Visits, do.	41
	„ found Defective	0
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds	No. of Dairies	531
	„ Milkshops	9
	„ Cowsheds	511
	„ Visits to Dairies	307
	„ „ Milkshops	20
	„ „ Cowsheds	310
	„ Improvements to Dairies	6
	„ „ „ Milkshops	2
	„ „ „ Cowsheds	26
Slaughter Houses	No. of Slaughter Houses	32
	„ Visits	1088
	„ found unsatisfactory	2
	„ Improved	2
	„ Diseased Carcases found partly or wholly unfit for human consumption	155
Water Supply	No. of Samples of Water taken for analysis	17
	„ found polluted	12
	„ Villages supplied with suspicious wells	2
	„ Old Wells cleaned out, repaired	5
	„ New Houses certified for occupation with adequate water supply	187
	„ New Wells sunk	52
	„ Villages with Public Supply	13
	„ Villages dependent on Wells and Springs	34
	„ Complaints as to Water Supply	2

WATER SUPPLY.

As mentioned in my last report the Water Supplies need a good deal of attention and I regret that greater speed has not been made in providing main supplies to the Parishes therein mentioned, where investigations were being made for that purpose. I am pleased to be able to report, however, that in the case of Harpford and Newton Poppleford the Scheme is now working and 107 houses and the schools, etc. are connected and taking water from the Mains ; this is a great boon to residents in these Villages. It is anticipated that the whole of the houses near the mains will soon be connected.

The following Parishes are in need of new or better supplies : Broadclyst, Exminster, Woodbury, Kenn, Kenton, Whimble and Ide.

The following work has been carried out during the past year :

EAST BUDLEIGH.—Main renewal - 160 yards of 3 in. pipe at Rolle Hill.

TOPSHAM.—Main extended at Greatwood Terrace - 15 yards with 3 in. pipe. Main extended at Newcourt Road - 550 yards with 3 in. pipe.

The plans, specifications, and quantities were prepared and the work superintended by my department, also all necessary connections thereto.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.—As a result of informal action some private water supplies have been improved during the year.

It would perhaps be appropriate to again mention under the head of " Water Supplies," that, in addition to the foregoing, the following parishes, although generally scattered, have groups of houses, which, if provided with a piped water supply, would be a great improvement from a sanitary point of view :—*i.e.*, Aylesbeare, Clyst Hydon, Clyst St. George, Clyst St. Mary, Sowton, Honiton Clyst, Rockbeare, Stoke Canon and Tedburn St. Mary. A piped supply, however, would probably be very expensive as the number of houses to be supplied are small compared with considerable lengths of mains required.

ALPHINGTON.—Development has in the past been retarded in the Shillingford Road area, owing to insufficient head of Water. A new Reservoir near Little John's Cross has now been constructed and larger mains laid and the supply is now satisfactory. Ide Lane, Alphington, should have a Water Main laid.

IDE.—The New Mains laid and stand pipes provided for the lower part of this parish have been a great help to householders who previously had to fetch their water some distance. The

higher part of the Village and the lower Council Houses remain to be dealt with.

COWSHEDS, MILK-SHOPS, DAIRIES AND MILK SUPPLY.

On the Register at the end of the year 1937 there were 531 Dairies, 511 Cowsheds, and 9 Milkshops.

The number of Licenses for certified or graded milk was 4, there were, in addition to those, 8 Tuberculin Tested and 92 Accredited Licenses issued by the County Council to producers in the District.

The supervision and samplings of Milk from these producers is done by this department. There are 2 Farms in the District with attested herds.

MILK SAMPLES TAKEN.

No. taken for cleanliness	.....	.....	414
,, Satisfactory	....	....	209
,, Unsatisfactory	....	....	205
,, taken for Tuberculosis	....	....	176
,, Negative results	....	....	146
,, Inconclusive	.....	.....	27
,, Positive	.....	.....	3

Where the Samples of Milk prove unsatisfactory, further investigations are made and the producer advised where it is thought his methods are at fault. Repeat Samples are then taken and many of the failures shown above have eventually passed the necessary test. This process, however, takes up a considerable amount of time.

I reported last year on the changed methods of Milk Testing. The "methylene blue reduction" test came into operation on 1st January, 1937, but where failures occur the repeat samples are also tested by the "coliform" and "plate count" methods which often helps in finding out the possible source of trouble or failure.

During the year further Meetings have been held and much has been said about co-operation and uniformity between the County Council and local authorities in the County, in the administrations of the regulations controlling dairy farms and the production of milk. In this District this has been brought into greater prominence by the comparatively large number of Dairy Farmers applying to the County Council for Accredited Milk Licenses in order that they might benefit by the Scheme of the Milk Marketing Board.

ACCREDITED MILK.

Every animal is subjected to a clinical examination once in every three months, and if any animal shows evidence of disease which is likely to affect the milk injuriously, it is removed from the herd and isolated and its milk is not used under the designation.

The milk is produced under reasonably clean conditions and some sort of a check is kept upon its quality by the regular bacteriological test. Milk produced under the designation Accredited is a reasonably clean commercial milk, but it does not follow that all ordinary milk is unclean.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

It will be appreciated that without a considerable Staff of Meat Inspectors it is utterly impossible to inspect all meat slaughtered in this Rural District with 32 Slaughter Houses and occasional slaughtering many miles apart, and often slaughtering on the same day and at the same time; as far as practicable, however, regular inspections of meat and other foods have been carried out and meat slaughtered in the district inspected at the slaughter houses during or immediately after slaughter, when the carcass and all the organs are examined. There were 155 surrenders or seizures of whole carcasses, part carcasses, organs, etc.

I am pleased to be able to report that a very poor Registered slaughter house at Otterton has been abolished and a new slaughter house erected near the Market.

A considerable amount of slaughtering has been done during the year in the Backenhayes slaughter houses at Lympstone, where Exmouth Butchers slaughter, and these have received considerable attention.

The number of Slaughtermen holding Licenses in the District is 65.

MEAT CONDEMNED.

26 carcasses, 129 parts, 125 heads and 26 sets of organs were condemned and destroyed. In the cases where the whole of a carcass is condemned, all organs are included. The total weight of meat condemned was 13,350 lbs.

SECTION 8, MEAT REGULATIONS.

Notices under this Section have been sent to me as required.

SECTION 9, MEAT REGULATIONS.

Twenty notices were received under this Section during the year.

STALLS, SHOPS, Etc.

There are 136 shops, etc. in the area from which meat as defined in the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is sold. These premises have been frequently inspected during the year and are fairly well kept.

HOUSING.

187 new houses have been erected during the past year, and the necessary supervision of these as well as existing

properties has been carried out.

There were 6 breaches of the Building Bye-laws reported to the Council, but these were remedied without legal proceedings.

The Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926-36, has again proved useful and works under this Act have been carried out in the District.

Leaflets and illustrated brochures containing photographs of property before and after improvements are available at my Office to all who may be interested.

During the year this Act has again been notably successful in Devonshire, and could be used more extensively in this District. At the same time factors exist which militate against its use in the parishes around the City of Exeter and other Towns, where, for example, high rents are commanded for cottage property.

It is perhaps interesting to mention that the total number of houses reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts in the County is 1595, of these, 91 were in this District; Barnstaple Rural District having the highest number of 265.

In my last report I mentioned Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1935, this has now been repealed by the Housing Act, 1936, by which Local Authorities are still given power to buy and improve working-class dwellings, and if need be, acquire compulsorily. As reported, this Council had already dealt with 8 such cottages at Starcross, and it is proposed to re-condition 5 more at Brampford Speke. In the first case a grant under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act was obtained, but in the latter case it is proposed to do the re-conditioning without such grant.

The activity around the City in building operations and the laying out and development of building estates continues.

TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNING.

The whole of the area is now Regional Town Planned. An area containing 4,521 acres immediately around the city is in the Exeter and District Town Planning Scheme, all that part of the area West of the River Exe and South of the main Exeter-Okehampton road is in the South Devon Regional Planning Scheme, and the remaining part of the district is now in The East Devon Regional Scheme, but I am hoping the time will come when there will one Scheme for the whole District.

SCAVENGING.

Scavenging has been regularly carried out in the Parishes before mentioned. The whole is done by contract and the disposal is by dumps. These dumps have been regularly inspected and kept in a fairly satisfactory condition but there have been some complaints. The Topsham dump, where for some years land known as the "Recreation Ground" has been used for this purpose

and made up, is nearing completion and a new dump will be necessary. A new dump at Christow has been obtained. It is some distance from the Village and should last for some years. At Pinhoe the burning of the refuse at the sewage disposal works and the removal of the residue continues and being in an isolated position is quite successful. Notice has been received to discontinue the Lymptstone dump, so far as possible, therefore, the area is being levelled and a new dump will have to be found.

There are 18 parishes from which refuse is collected at present with 30 collecting areas and a special sub-committee is considering the possibilities of a general refuse collection in the populous parts of all parishes by direct labour and with the Council's own vehicles. Various reports have been made and it is now suggested grouping some parishes as a trial area. It is my hope that a general system of refuse collection and disposal will be eventually adopted which would obviate the present number of small dumps which are difficult to properly control and keep from unsightliness and nuisance. In future the expenses in connection with house refuse collection and disposal is to become a general district charge and not a special charge on the parish concerned as hitherto.

SEWERS.

Various repairs have been carried out and the following new sewers have been laid :—

ALPHINGTON.—43 yards of sewer was extended to Bridge House and adjacent properties.

BRAMPFORD SPEKE.—The Sewer was extended to the Council Houses and other property, a distance of 495 yards.

PINHOE.—A new Sewer from Monkerton to Heath Barton, a distance of 2250 yards was laid, also a new Sewer to Park Lane a further distance of 390 yards.

TOPSHAM.—430 yards of Sewer was extended to the Highfield Estate.

In addition to the foregoing, various new building estates have laid considerable lengths of estate sewers to the public sewers. Some difficulties have been experienced in finding suitable outfalls for storm water from the new Estate Roads where this cannot be taken into the soil sewers.

The plans, sections, specifications and quantities were prepared and the work supervised by my department, as also was the necessary connections of house drainage thereto.

LEGISLATION OR ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYELAWS, Etc.

I mentioned in previous reports that Rural Councils with areas near the larger Towns and Cities find it absolutely essential to put into force many of the adoptive clauses of the Public Health Acts, with Urban Bye-laws with respect to new Streets

and Buildings. In this District the latter and many clauses have been adopted for the Parishes immediately surrounding the City. A sub-committee has been appointed to consider the proposal to adopt "New Street" Bye Laws for the whole of the Parishes in the District. The necessity for this is evident as building and estate development proposals occur in all parts of the area. Further, these Bye Laws become essential in carrying out the provisions of Section 30 of the Public Health Act, 1925, and Town and Regional Planning Schemes in declaring existing highways to be "New Streets," for these declarations can only be at present applied where there are New Street Bye Laws.

The Public Health Act, 1936, which came into operation on 1st October, 1937, will undoubtedly have a considerable influence on Public Health work during the coming year.

New Building Bye Laws must be submitted to the Ministry of Health before 31st July, 1939, and a form of a New Model Series has been issued by the Ministry for that purpose.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

The Bye Laws in force in the County have been of assistance in the control, layout and colour of new Petrol Filling Stations and any alterations to existing Stations. Petrol Filling Stations are however increasing in numbers, mostly along the main classified roads. It is also becoming common to have food stores, snack bars, etc. in connection with these premises, this necessitating frequent supervision. In connection with New Stations "Pull-ins" are required, and some have been provided in connection with the old stations, thus providing facilities for filling vehicles off the Public Highway.

No. of Persons holding Licences	.....	.....	.....	94
„ Licenses on the Register	.....	.....	.....	109
„ „ to store Petroleum	.....	.....	.....	92
„ „ „ Carbide	.....	.....	.....	17

Quantity stored on all premises under the Licenses granted—			
Petroleum spirit	.....	.....	115,921 gallons.
Carbide of Calcium	.....	.....	13,960 lbs.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. HAWKER,
M.I.Mun. & Cy. Engineers,
C.R. San. Inst., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat & Food Insp.,
Registered Architect,
Sanitary Surveyor & Insp.

